Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 00726 040824Z ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 //090 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1422

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

MBFR VIENNA 051

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO, RO

SUBJ: POSSIBLE ROMANIAN ARMY REDUCTION INITIATIVE AT

BELGRADE

REF: (A) BUCHAREST 0344; (B) USNATO 0269

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU FEB 1, HE MENTIONED HIS POSITIVE REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S STRESS ON DISARMAMENT, ESPECIALLY ON THE NEED FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, BUT THEN WENT ON TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBSERVE THAT HE HOPED THESE SENTIMENTS WOULD BE TRANS-LATED INTO ACTION. SO FAR AS ROMANIA WAS CONCERNED, HE CONTINUED, THE BELGRADE MEETING THIS SUMMER WOULD OFFER AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME SERIOUS FIRST STEPS TOWARD REAL DISARMAMENT. IN THE ROMANIAN VIEW, FOR EXAMPLE, AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD CUT OF 5-10 PERCENT WOULD SERVE THAT PURPOSE WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE PRESENT EQUILIBRIUM IN EUROPE. WHEN I OBJECTED THAT WE DIDN'T FEEL THERE WAS A REAL BALANCE AT PRESENT, HE RESPONDED THAT THE SIZE OF CUTS HE WAS TALKING ABOUT WOULD NOT PREJUDICE OUR POSITION BUT WOULD STILL BE AN EARNEST OF SERIOUS INTENTIONS OF MOVING TOWARD ACTUAL DISARMEMENT, IN ANY EVENT HE SAID ROMANIA WAS WORKING ON VARIOUS WAYS TO HELP ENSURE A MEANINGFUL RESULT FROM THE BELGRADE MEETING.

2. COMMENT: THOUGH CEAUSESCU SPOKE IN A BELGRADE CSCE CONTEXT, THE THRUST OF HIS STATEMENTS WAS CONSISTENT WITH LONGSTANDING ROMANIAN DESIRES TO MOVE THE MBFR TALKS INTO MORE ACTIVE GEAR AND IN THAT SENSE WITH THE PROPOSAL FOR A COMPLEX EQUATION MENTIONED IN REFTEL B. BARNES

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Message Attributes

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